Law and order condition in Delhi

2445. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that law and order condition in the capital city is deplorable;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a detailed study has been made into manpower requirements and modernisation of Delhi Police;

(c) if so, what are its findings; and

(d) what steps are being taken to get them implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir. There has been a progressive decline in the crime rate of Delhi during the past few years.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Bureau of Police Research and Development have in their Study Report into the manpower and modernization needs of Delhi Police made wide ranging recommendations covering practically all the aspects of police functioning including norms for setting up of new Police Stations; crime investigation; traffic management; upgradation of training facilities; augmentation of security units; and modernization of arms and equipment. The Government have accepted most of the recommendations in principle and it has been decided to implement these in a phased manner depending on their *inter se* priority and availability of funds.

Proposed amendment in marriage laws

2446. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the marriage laws to protect women from litigation-related harassment, if so, the details of the enabling provisions; and

(b) whether Government also propose to bring in some kind of legislation to legalize "live-in-arrangement" practice, which is gaining ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Government introduced on 9th May, 2003 'The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003' in Rajya Sabha in order to identify the areas of harassment, etc. to women. The Bill proposes to amend the Special Marriage Act, 1954 and Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, so that a wife can also file petition in the district court within whose local limits of jurisdiction she may be residing. The Bill also proposes to amend provisions of the said Acts to provide that the parties to a matrimonial suit may prefer an appeal within a period of 90 days instead of 30 days.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government. However, Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System has recommended that section 494 of Indian Penal Code may be amended to the effect that if a man and woman were living together as husband and wife for a reasonably long period, the man shall be deemed to have married the woman according to the customary rites of either party.

Authorisation of negotiation with insurgent outfits of NE region

2447. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have authorised any Chief Minister, Minister or person to negotiate with insurgent outfits operating in the N.E Region;

(b) if answer to (a) is affirmative, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have since received any report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) to (c) Central Government has not authorized anyone to negotiate with the militants operating in the North Eastern Region except Shri K. Padmanabhaiah, Government